

Taking care of the land, water, and air is very important to my family because we have to make a living from the land. We are a farm family and we drink the well water that is on our farm. We also have to breathe the air that surrounds our fields and trees. If we mistreat the land on our farm we will not be able to grow the crops that sustain us. If we pollute the water we could harm ourselves as well as our livestock. If we allow harmful chemicals to enter into our water the irrigation of our crops would hurt our crops instead of helping them.

Today we are protecting our environment on our farm by conservation methods such as no till planting. This protects our farm because it allows us to run our tractor much less than we normally would during the planting season, which cuts down on pollution by approximately 75;% compared to past seasons. This conservation tillage also helps the land by cutting down on pollution in the air from wind erosion. We also purchase technologically advanced seed that enables us to cut down on the amount of material we have to spray on our farm to protect our crops. The newest seed varieties have been bred to actually kill the pests that prey on them. Therefore, we are able to use far less chemicals on our farm. This new seed development also made the water supply safer. These seeds have the BT DNA trait called bacillus thuringiensis, which is one of the safest pesticides that can be used. You can even taste this product and it will not make you sick yet it is able to control pests in our field, especially worms!

Filter strips is another conservation tool that we employ. This is when pine trees are planted between the fields and ditches. They act as a filter for the runoff of pesticides and fertilizer following heavy rains. This keeps those materials from entering the ditches and running into the swamps, which drain into streams and rivers, and finally

the ocean. The [redacted] are effective [redacted] by cutting down on water pollution. GPS technology is another tool that we use on our farm to help us with conservation.

This positioning technology that uses satellites, allows us to guide our tractors in the field, so that we do not overlap the areas that we have sprayed. This is very important because certain materials, such as atrazine, have been found to be present in ocean water. This keeps us from placing excessive amounts of material in the field, and protects the environment. We also sample the soil in our fields so that we know exactly what nutrients are needed. This is very important to prevent excessive runoff into the water ways. There have also been cases of materials called nitrates detected surrounding river basins.

Fencing off creeks and ponds on our farm is another way we are responsible for the well being of our environment. We are able to keep animal waste out of our water system this way. We also plant trees in all of the fields that we are not using for animals or crops. Trees help clean and restore the atmosphere. Lastly, we hunt and fish on the land surrounding our farm, and we are careful not to do anything that would harm the lifecycle of the wildlife that we enjoy having around us.

We can live on earth without a lot of things, but everyone needs clean air, clean water, and unspoiled land for our crops. Farms like the one I live on are where our food comes from, food doesn't grow in the grocery store, it comes from the land. It is the responsibility of every family to take care of our land, water, and air.

Meredith's
mistake
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